

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 15, 16 and 30, without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for managing network elements of a network, said system comprising:
 - at least one network element;
 - a centralized management information base operable to store objects;
 - a management processor communicatively coupled to said management information base;
 - at least one gateway communicatively coupled to said management processor, said at least one gateway operable to manage said at least one network element; and
 - at least one object stored in said management information base defining management behavior for managing said at least one network element, said at least one object including a relationship attribute identifying said at least one gateway, wherein said management processor accesses said at least one object stored in said management information base and implements the management behavior defined by said at least one object in accordance with the relationship attribute included in said at least one object.
2. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
 - software code executable by said management processor for generating a user interface with which a user can interact to define management behavior.
3. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 2 wherein user-defined management behavior can be activated at run-time of said management processor.
4. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1 wherein said management behavior includes behavior associated with managing trap messages received from said at least one network element.
5. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1 wherein said management behavior includes behavior associated with managing polling activities.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1 wherein said management behavior includes one or more behaviors selected from the group ~~consisting of~~:

generating an alert, logging information to a database, logging information to another system, initiating a polling activity, filtering information, performing suppression of information, performing correlation of information, performing thresholding, triggering an e-mail message, triggering a page, and any combination thereof.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a plurality of network elements; and
a plurality of said gateways distributed on the network, each gateway operable to manage one or more of said plurality of network elements.
8. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 7 further comprising:
a plurality of objects stored in said management information base each defining different management behavior.
9. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 8 wherein each of said plurality of objects includes a relationship attribute identifying at least one of said plurality of gateways that is executable to perform management behavior defined by such object.
10. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 8 wherein said management processor is operable to autonomously determine appropriate one or more of said plurality of gateways to which each of said objects relates, and wherein said management processor is operable to autonomously communicate one or more of said plurality of objects to the determined appropriate one or more of said plurality of gateways.
11. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 10 wherein the determined appropriate one or more of said plurality of gateways stores said one or more of said plurality of objects local thereto.
12. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 10 wherein the said management processor is operable to autonomously communicate one or more of said plurality of objects to the determined appropriate one or more of said plurality of gateways responsive to a user defining a new management behavior represented by said one or more of said plurality of objects.

13. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 12 wherein said management processor executes to present a user interface to a user to enable said user to define management behavior thereby creating new objects to be stored in said management information base or modifying existing ones of said objects stored in said management information base.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~for managing network elements~~ comprising ~~the steps of:~~

implementing at least one gateway operable to manage one or more network elements of a network, said at least one gateway being communicatively coupled to a management processor;

defining a management behavior;

representing said management behavior as a behavior object;

storing said behavior object in ~~an~~ a centralized information base communicatively coupled to said management processor;

said management processor determining an appropriate one or more of said at least one gateway that is to perform said defined management behavior; and

said management processor autonomously communicating said behavior object from the centralized information base to the one or more determined gateways.

15. (CANCELED)

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 14 wherein said determining by the management step-processor further comprises:

said management processor identifying said appropriate one or more of said at least one gateway that is to perform said defined management behavior based at least in part on a relationship attribute associated with said behavior object that specifies the appropriate one or more gateways.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 17 wherein said determining by the management step-processor further comprises:

said management processor learning from said at least one gateway the management behavior that said at least one gateway is to perform.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 18 wherein said learning further comprises:
said management processor receiving communication from said at least one gateway identifying a fault message received by said at least one gateway from a network element; and
said management processor identifying one or more behavior objects corresponding to said fault message.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein said management processor communicates the identified one or more behavior objects corresponding to said fault message to said at least one gateway that received said fault message.

21. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein said management processor updates a relationship attribute associated with the identified one or more behavior objects to specify that said at least one gateway that received said fault message needs to perform the management behavior represented by the identified one or more behavior objects.

22. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein said fault message is received by said at least one gateway in SNMP protocol.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 17 wherein said determining by the management processor further comprises:

said management processor receiving input from a user identifying said appropriate one or more of said at least one gateway that is to perform said defined management behavior; and

said management processor storing the said appropriate one or more of said at least one gateway in a relationship attribute associated with said behavior object.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 14 further comprising ~~the step of:~~
presenting a user interface to enable a user to perform said defining ~~step~~.

25. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14 wherein said management behavior includes behavior associated with managing trap messages received from said one or more

network elements.

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14 wherein said management behavior includes behavior associated with managing polling activities.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 14 wherein said management behavior includes one or more behaviors selected from the group ~~consisting~~ of:

generating an alert, logging information to a database, logging information to another system, initiating a polling activity, filtering information, performing suppression of information, performing correlation of information, performing thresholding, triggering an e-mail message, triggering a page, and any combination thereof.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 14 further comprising ~~the step~~ of:

activating said one or more determined gateways during run-time.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system comprising:
plurality of distributed gateways each operable to manage one or more network elements, each of said distributed gateways comprising code executable in accordance with one or more behavior objects stored local thereto; and

a central management processor communicatively coupled to said distributed gateways and also communicatively coupled to an information base having user-defined behavior objects stored therein, wherein said central management processor executes a management process which autonomously determines one or more of said plurality of distributed gateways to which one or more of said user-defined behavior objects stored in said information base are to be communicated, and which causes said one or more of the user-defined behavior objects to be communicated and thereby stored locally in the determined one or more of said plurality of distributed gateways, so that the code of said one or more of said plurality of distributed gateways executes in accordance with the communicated one or more of said user-defined behavior objects.

30. (CANCELED)

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim ~~30-29~~, wherein said one or more of said user-defined objects communicated to the determined ~~appropriate~~ one or more of said plurality of distributed gateways dictate proper management behavior for the determined ~~appropriate~~ one or more of said plurality of distributed gateways.

32. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 29 wherein said central management processor executes a management process to communicate one or more of said user-defined behavior objects to one or more of said distributed gateways during run-time of said central management processor.

33. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 32, wherein said one or more of said user-defined behavior objects communicated to said one or more of said distributed gateways dictate management behavior represented by said one or more of said user-defined behavior objects to be executed by said one or more of said distributed gateways.

34. (NEW) A system comprising:
a plurality of distributed gateways each operable to manage one or more network elements;
a central information base storing user-defined behavior objects, each behavior object defining management behavior for managing a distributed gateway of the plurality of distributed gateways; and
a central management processor accessing a respective behavior object stored in the information base and causing the respective behavior object to be communicated to the distributed gateway for which the respective behavior object defines management behavior, so that the communicated behavior object is stored locally in, and then executed by, the distributed gateway.

35. (NEW) A system comprising:
a plurality of distributed gateways each operable to manage one or more network elements;
a central information base storing user-defined behavior objects, each behavior object defining management behavior for managing a distributed gateway of the plurality of distributed gateways; and

means for accessing a respective behavior object stored in the information base and for causing the respective behavior object to be communicated to the distributed gateway for which the respective behavior object defines management behavior, so that the communicated behavior object is stored locally in, and then executed by, the distributed gateway.